



State of California
Respiratory Care Board
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- Inquiry:** We are a licensed wholesaler for diagnostic medical equipment. I have been recently approached by a Respiratory Therapist who wants to purchase a pulse oximeter. My questions are:
- (1) Can a Respiratory Therapist purchase a pulse oximeter to use within her scope of practice with a current California license as an RCP?
 - (2) Is it the same as a M.D. purchasing a pulse oximeter for his office or personal uses?
 - (3) Is there a way to obtain a copy of her license on the internet (as with Doc Finders, validating current California M.D. Licenses) other than from her or through the State Board?

Response: It is perfectly legal for a licensed respiratory practitioner to purchase equipment that they will use to carry out a physicians order in their own private business. Many sleep companies or home care agencies are currently utilizing oximetry to improve their assessment techniques in the home. It is very similar to a physician purchasing the same type of equipment.

Should you wish to check the current licensure of the practitioner that wants to purchase your equipment you can verify their license on-line or by calling the Respiratory Care Board. Our address, phone number and web address are included in the letterhead above. The practitioner's licensure is public knowledge and can be assessed easily.

Reference # 2002-C-17